

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

AGRE-00 OES-07 HEW-04 OMB-01 IO-13 /104 W

-----115102 072042Z /42

R 071428Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7416

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PE

SUBJECT: GOP PLANS FOR INTEGRATION OF MINISTRIES

SUMMARY: THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINES AND THE GOP-CONTROLLED DAILIES HAVE RECENTLY CARRIED ITEMS ON A POSSIBLE INTEGRATION OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES. EMBASSY CONTACT IS COAP CONFIRMED THAT GOP IS STUDYING HIGH-LEVEL REORGANIZATION AND PROVIDED SOME DETAILS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY CONTACTIN COAP DENIED THAT HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE RESHUFFLE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY CABINET IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE INFLATED BUDGET, AN IMF CONDITION FOR STANDBY ASSISTANCE TO PERU. THE INTEGRATION OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES AND THE QUOTE ELIMINATION UNQUOTE OF SEVERAL SEMIAUTONOMOUS AGENCIES WILL NOT RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN BUDGET OR IN ELIMINATION OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. COAP CONTACT CONFIRMED THAT THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND TOURISM (GEN GASTON IBAFIZ O'BRIEN), COMMERCE (LT GEN LUSI ARIAS GRAZIANI), AND INTEGRATION (VICE-ADMIRAL RAFAEL DURAN REY) WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO ONE SUPER-MINISTRY DEALING WITH IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND REGIONAL
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INTEGRATION. A SEPARATE ENTITY (NOT CLEAR IF ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL) WILL BE CRATED TO HANDLE INTERNAL COMMERCE. COAP SOURCE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT MINISTRIES OF FOOD (GENERAL RAFAEL HOYOS RUBIO) AND AGRICULTURE (GEN LUIS ARBULU IBANEZ) WILL BE INTEGRATED, BUT DID NOT INDICATE IF FISHERIES WILL BE INCLUDED IN NEW SUPER-MINISTRY. NO CANDIATES TO HEAD SUPER-MINISTRIES WERE SUGGESTED.

2. RUMORS ABOUT A POSSIBLE FUSION OF THE THREE SERVICE MINISTRY INTO A NEW QUOTE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE UNQUOTE WERE CATEGORICALLY SCOTCHED BY NAVY MINISTER PARODI IN A PRESS CONFERENCE NOV 3. HE DENIED THAT THE GOP WAS EVEN CONSIDERING SUCH A MOVE.

3. COAP SOURCE SAID THAT GOP INTEGRATION PLAN ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MINISTRIES FROM CURRENT 18 TO 8. HE DOUBTED THIS GOAL WOULD BE ACHIEVED. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT ORDEZA (EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY FOR CALLEJON DE HUAYLAS) WILL "DISAPPEAR" TO BE REINCARNATED WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL AS AN AUTONOMOUS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (ORDELORETO) FOR THE VAST AMAZONIAN DEPARTMENT OF LORETO. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE MORIBUND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AGENCY SINAMOS WILL BE ELIMINATED BUT THAT POSITIONS WILL BE FOUND FOR SINAMOS STAFF. HE ALSO SPOKE OF SEPARATING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION-- CURRENTLY UNDER HEAVY ATTACK FOR MISMANAGEMENT--FROM THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, GIVING IT SEMIAUTONOMY UNDER A LESS-THAN-CABINET-RANK HEAD.

4. COMMENT:. ONE OF THE MOST CONSISTENT CRITICISMS OF THE CIVILIAN OPPOSITION HAS BEEN THE EXPANSION OF THE STATE APPARATUS UNDER THE MILGOV. THESE CRITICISMS CENTER ON THE COST AND INEFFICIENCY OF THE NEW OCTOPUS-LIKE BUREAUCRACY. ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION MAY BE DESIGNED IN PART TO ANSWER THESE CRITICISMS. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE PROJECTED REORGANIZATION MAY, IN ADDITION, REFLECT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ' CONCERN OVER THE UNMANAGEABLE SIZE OF THE CABINET WITH WHICH HE MUST DEAL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CONSENSUS ON SOME ISSUES AND THE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS IS HAMPERED BY THE LARGE, AMOST COLLEGIAL, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH ASSISTS THE PRESIDENT. THE REORGANIZATION IS ALSO PROBABLY MEANT TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE IMF AND IFIS THE GOP'S COMMITMENT OF BELT-TIGHTENING. TO BE REALLY CONVINCING, HOWEVER, THE EFFORT WILL HAVE TO GO BEYOND THE COSEMTIC FUSION OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES AND ELIMINATION OF A FEW CABINET-RANK POSITIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, REORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA09725
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770410-1261
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771188/aaaacxwv.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: f0be5a20-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 691159
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP PLANS FOR INTEGRATION OF MINISTRIES SUMMARY: THE INDEPENDENT MAGAZINES AND THE GOP-CONTROLLED DAILIES HAVE RECENTLY CARRIED ITEMS ON A POSSIBLE
TAGS: PGOV, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0be5a20-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009